

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00461 301030Z

44

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-10

L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 /085 W

----- 039903

R 300910Z NOV 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0702

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0123

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0461

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: NATO MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE

1. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD FURTHER ALLIED NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES IN THE VIENNA TALKS TO GIVE THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS SOMEWHAT MORE EMPHASIS IN THE FORTHCOMING NATO MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE.

2. WE HAVE IN MIND A TREATMENT OF MBFR IN MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE SIMILAR TO THE EARLIER PRESENTATION OF THE BERLIN ISSUE, WHICH WAS ADVANCED IN SUCCESSIVE COMMUNIQUE AS A SPECIFIC TEST OF SOVIET INTEREST IN CONCRETE MEASURES OF DETENTE AS DISTINGUISHED FROM RHETORIC ABOUT DETENTE.

3. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO BEGIN USING SIMILAR LANGUAGE ABOUT THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, TO THE EFFECT THAT SOVIET WILLINGNESS TO MAKE PRACTICAL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00461 301030Z

PROGRESS IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON SUBSTANTIAL

REDUCTIONS LEADING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GROUND FORCE PARITY IS REGARDED BY THE WEST AS A TEST OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF SOVIET INTEREST IN DETENTE IN THE FIELD OF EUROPEAN MILITARY SECURITY. SUCH LANGUAGE MIGHT SERVE TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON THE SOVIETS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. STRONGER COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE COULD ALSO SERVE TO PLACE THE ALLIES IN A BETTER PUBLIC POSTURE VIS-A-VIS THEIR OWN PUBLICS AND PARLIAMENTS BY EXPLAINING TO WESTERN OPINION GENERAL WESTERN OBJECTIVES AND PLACING THE ONUS ON THE EAST FOR LACK OF CONCRETE PROGRESS TOWARD REDUCTIONS ON A BASIS ACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST. IT COULD IN THIS WAY HELP IN COPING WITH EASTERN PROPOSALS FOR SMALL SYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS OR A FORCE FREEZE WHICH ARE AIMED PRIMARILY AT WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION.

4. WE WOULD SUGGEST FOLLOWING LANGUAGE MIGHT BE DRAWN ON:

5. BEGIN TEXT: MINISTERS REPRESENTING COUNTRIES WHICH PARTICIPATE IN NATO'S INTEGRATED DEFENSE PROGRAM REVIEWED THE CURRENT STATE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THESE MINISTERS CONSIDERED A REPORT BY ALLIED NEGOTIATORS IN VIENNA. THEY NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED ON A BASIS OF ALLIED SOLIDARITY AND FULL COORDINATION OF ALLIED NEGOTIATING POLICY AND TACTICS. THEY INSTRUCTED THE COUNCIL IN PERMANENT SESSION TO CONTINUE ITS CONSULTATIONS ON QUESTIONS OF ALLIED OBJECTIVES AND POLICY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. THESE MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR CONTINUED CONVICTION THAT AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT INSTRUMENT FOR ACHIEVING A LESSENING OF TENSIONS IN EUROPE AND A MORE STABLE PEACE. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO PERSIST IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS TO A BALANCED AND EQUITABLE OUTCOME THAT WOULD ACHIEVE THESE AIMS, WITH UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR ALL PARTIES. THIS OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE ACHIEVED BY ESTABLISHING APPROXIMATE PARITY BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IN THE FORM OF A COMMON CEILING FOR OVERALL GROUND FORCE MANPOWER ON EACH SIDE IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT COMBAT CAPABILITY. A FIRST PHASE AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR THE REDUCTION OF UNITED STATES AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT INITIAL STEP TOWARD THAT OBJECTIVE.

7. THESE MINISTERS NOTED WITH REGRET THAT, AFTER A YEAR OF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00461 301030Z

NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA, THERE HAS AS YET BEEN LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS. THE SOVIET UNION AND THE COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW PACT HAVE REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR DETENTE IN THE MILITARY SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE, THE AREA OF GREATEST CONFRONTATION. THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE PROVIDE A PRACTICAL TEST OF WHETHER SUCH GENERAL EXPRESSIONS OF DESIRE ARE BACKED BY WILLINGNESS TO AGREE ON CONCRETE AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR BRINGING ABOUT

GENUINE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE EXISTING SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

8. THAT SITUATION IS CHARACTERIZED BY THE CONSIDERABLE NUMERICAL
WARSAW PACT SUPERIORITY IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND MAIN BATTLE
TANKS. ONLY SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS, BEGINNING WITH SUBSTANTIAL
US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS, WHICH TAKE THESE FACTS INTO ACCOUNT,
CAN LEAD TOWARDS THE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES WHICH WOULD PROVIDE
AN EFFECTIVE AND SOLID BASIS FOR ENHANCED STABILITY IN CENTRAL
EUROPE. END TEXT.RESOR

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MBFR, NEGOTIATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, COMMUNIQUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MBFRV00461
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740348-0147
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974111/aaaaaajc.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: NATO MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005